

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

Before The Honorable Maxine M. Chesney, Judge

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,)	
)	
Plaintiff,)	
)	
VS.)	NO. CR 18-465 MMC
)	
UNITED MICROELECTRONICS)	
CORPORATION, INC.; FUJIAN)	
JINHUA INTEGRATED CIRCUIT CO.,)	
LTD; et al.,)	
)	
Defendants.)	
)	

San Francisco, California
Wednesday, December 18, 2019

TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

APPEARANCES:

For Plaintiff:

DAVID L. ANDERSON
United States Attorney
450 Golden Gate Avenue
San Francisco, California 94102
BY: LAURA E. VARTAIN
ASSISTANT UNITED STATES ATTORNEY

For Defendant United Microelectronics:

LATHAM & WATKINS
505 Montgomery Street - Suite 1900
San Francisco, CA 94111
BY: LESLIE R. CALDWELL
ATTORNEY AT LAW

(APPEARANCES CONTINUED ON FOLLOWING PAGE)

Reported By: Ruth Levine Ekhaus, RDR, FCRR
Official Reporter, CSR No. 12219

APPEARANCES : (CONTINUED)

For Defendant Fujian Jinhua:

MORRISON & FOERSTER

425 Market Street

San Francisco, California 94105

BY: CHRISTINE Y. WONG

ATTORNEY AT LAW

PROCEEDINGS1 **Wednesday - December 18, 2019**

9:33 a.m.

P R O C E E D I N G S3 **---oo---**

4 **THE CLERK:** Calling Criminal Case Number 18-465,
5 United States of America versus United Microelectronics and
6 Fujian Jinhua Integrated Circuit.

7 **MS. VARTAIN:** Good morning, Your Honor. Laura Vartain
8 for the United States.

9 **THE COURT:** Good.

10 **MS. CALDWELL:** Leslie Caldwell for UMC.

11 **THE COURT:** Okay.

12 **MS. WONG:** Christine Wong for Fujian Jinhua.

13 **THE COURT:** All right. So you are getting ahead of
14 the custodies that will be down shortly, but we're near the
15 beginning.

16 So we have handled certain matters that were contested.
17 This is a scheduling conference. So where are we with this
18 particular case?

19 **MS. VARTAIN:** Yes, Your Honor. As the Court knows,
20 the protective order has been entered, and pursuant to that the
21 Government has produced substantial discovery and is continuing
22 to do so. I expect that most of the discovery in the
23 Government's possession will be produced in early January.
24 It's in the processing process. And there are a few e-mail
25 accounts over which privilege reviews need to be done. But we

PROCEEDINGS

1 are working on those.

2 And my request would be that we come back in 60 days for
3 any discovery dispute motion briefing that we need, and further
4 status.

5 **THE COURT:** Okay. Let's take the other side one at a
6 time.

7 Ms. Wong, anything?

8 **MS. WONG:** Your Honor, the Government is accurate in
9 the recitation of what's going on with discovery. One matter
10 that we have identified, and we sent a letter to the Government
11 about this, is in the course of reviewing a sample of the
12 discovery that has been produced so far, it appears that many
13 of the documents have been over-designated as confidential
14 trade secrets. There are documents that are filings, court
15 filings in the United States, filings that relate to the Taiwan
16 proceedings, news articles, press releases.

17 **THE COURT:** Things that were made public at one time,
18 you're saying.

19 **MS. WONG:** Exactly, that have all been designated as
20 confidential.

21 **THE COURT:** Okay. Let me go back to Ms. Vartain for a
22 minute.

23 **MS. VARTAIN:** I received a letter regarding this issue
24 yesterday. I asked for the defense to identify, once they
25 raised this issue to me, what they thought was overly

PROCEEDINGS

1 designated. As the Court may know, I'm recently -- I'm new to
2 the case. I will review the letter. And my hope is that we
3 have no further dispute about it and we can just resolve it
4 without the Court's intervention.

5 **THE COURT:** All right. Hopefully -- I'm not sure who
6 is overseeing the designations, so it may be worth talking to
7 them about it to see if they had some guideline that maybe is
8 over-inclusive.

9 Ms. Caldwell, what about from your standpoint?

10 **MS. CALDWELL:** Yes, Your Honor.

11 Just to alert you to what may or may not be an issue
12 depending on what other discovery is provided by the
13 Government, there are two categories of materials that we think
14 should be provided that have not been to date.

15 One is grand jury material. I understand that the
16 Government doesn't have a legal obligation to produce grand
17 jury material at this stage, but we do think that there are --
18 and, again, I won't get into the details of it right now, but
19 we do think there is an attorney/client privilege issue, and
20 that some provisions of the indictment are based on privileged
21 information, that it should not have been in the Government's
22 possession. We have not gotten grand jury material. So we, at
23 minimum, need to see the material presented to the grand jury
24 on two particular paragraphs in the indictment.

25 This is obviously not a case where there is any risk of

PROCEEDINGS

1 any danger to any witnesses who may have testified in the grand
2 jury. That's one category.

3 The other category is: This case was essentially driven
4 and originated by the victim company, Micron, both here and in
5 Taiwan. Micron was -- filed a criminal complaint in Taiwan and
6 also initiated the Government's interest in this case here in
7 the U.S..

8 Micron has provided a lot of information to the
9 Government. We have some of that. We believe that Micron has
10 a lot of other information that may or may not have been
11 provided. We'll see. We're not asking the Court for relief at
12 this point, but we'll see what the Government produces.

13 But just for -- as an example, Micron provided to the
14 Government, and the Government has produced to us, what
15 purports to be a declaration from one of the individual
16 defendants in the case named Kenny Wong. We are aware that
17 there are multiple versions of that declaration that have very
18 significant factual differences. We only have one version and,
19 in our view, that would be operating material.

20 So we are going to request that -- and we have requested
21 in our discovery letter that materials in the possession of
22 Micron also be produced, whether they were given to the
23 Government or not.

24 Again, we're not seeking relief at this point, but that is
25 something that we hope that the Government will be giving us.

PROCEEDINGS

1 **THE COURT:** So you have a legal issue of some sort,
2 possibly regarding Micron materials that haven't been
3 produced --

4 **MS. CALDWELL:** Right.

5 **THE COURT:** -- to the Government, given that Micron is
6 a non-governmental entity. I understand that you're working
7 together.

8 **MS. CALDWELL:** Yes, we are working together and
9 hopefully we'll work this out. But I'll just note again, we're
10 not, obviously, seeking relief at this point.

11 But just to note, again, that in a very similar fact
12 situation in the Western District of Washington in the *Hua Wei*
13 case, *U.S. v Hua Wei*, the victim company, which was T-Mobile in
14 that case, essentially produced materials to the defense in a
15 similar situation where they were essentially the reason why
16 the case was being brought.

17 **THE COURT:** No, I understand that you're still trying
18 to work this out with the Government.

19 **MS. CALDWELL:** Yes.

20 **THE COURT:** What I will say is that I understand that
21 the Government and Micron are working together --

22 **MS. CALDWELL:** Yes.

23 **THE COURT:** -- so whatever legal effect that has or
24 doesn't have, that was the only thing that was mentioned.

25 **MS. CALDWELL:** Correct.

PROCEEDINGS

1 **THE COURT:** Then this other idea, if we can go back to
2 that for a moment with the grand jury and attorney/client
3 privileged material --

4 **MS. CALDWELL:** Right.

5 **THE COURT:** -- are you saying that there was
6 attorney/client privileged material that was submitted to the
7 grand jury or --

8 **MS. CALDWELL:** Your Honor, without going into the
9 details now, because this is obviously something we would
10 litigate under seal, a former attorney for UMC provided
11 material to Micron, which in turn provided the material to the
12 Government. And we believe that material was privileged and
13 should not have been provided.

14 So it would be the basis of a motion, but we need to see
15 what was actually presented to the grand jury. There were two
16 paragraphs in the indictment that we believe were based solely
17 on that individual's information which should not have been in
18 the hands of the Government.

19 **THE COURT:** What do you think the legal effect of that
20 is?

21 **MS. CALDWELL:** I think the legal effect of that is
22 that those paragraphs in the indictment will have to be
23 redacted. And there may also be other implications because
24 that material was also used in other ways in the investigation.
25 But, again, that would be the subject of litigation if we get

PROCEEDINGS

1 to that point.

2 **THE COURT:** All right. Well, okay. Some discovery,
3 though, has been produced?

4 **MS. CALDWELL:** Correct.

5 **THE COURT:** Did any of it make its way to Hong Kong?

6 **MS. CALDWELL:** Some of it has made its way to Hong
7 Kong.

8 **THE COURT:** As far as you know, nothing untoward has
9 happened in connection with it?

10 **MS. CALDWELL:** Absolutely not.

11 **THE COURT:** All right. So where are we at this point?
12 Should I go ahead and set another status date?

13 **MS. CALDWELL:** Yes, Your Honor.

14 **MS. WONG:** Yes, Your Honor, although we would request
15 30 days instead of 60 days, given that there is still discovery
16 outstanding. I think 30 days would allow us to report back on
17 what the status is of how much discovery --

18 **THE COURT:** Let me make a suggestion in that regard
19 then. If you're wanting to just sort of keep the Court
20 involved in case there is some dispute that might be resolved,
21 other than just between or amongst yourselves, I could set
22 30 days. If you determine at that time everything is going
23 along smoothly, you could provide a stipulation to put the
24 matter over for another 30 so that you don't have to come in,
25 you know, and take your time and finances, whatever.

PROCEEDINGS

1 That would be one idea, kind of as a tickler, and if we
2 don't need it, we don't need it.

3 What about from the Government's standpoint?

4 **MS. VARTAIN:** I don't have any objection to coming
5 back in 30 days. I think 60 is more practical because the
6 discovery is voluminous. It has now crashed the Government's
7 system a few times as we tried to get it out the door this
8 week. And I would like to have an opportunity to discuss with
9 defense counsel the topics they have raised to the Court and
10 see if we can reach agreement on those areas.

11 I think it's more likely that we would have more
12 productive conversations in 60 days, but I'm not going to
13 object to coming back in 30 days.

14 **THE COURT:** Any objection, Ms. Caldwell?

15 **MS. CALDWELL:** No, we're fine with either, Your Honor.

16 **THE COURT:** Here is another idea. Okay?

17 I say 60 days, so you don't have to file something to put
18 it over, you know, with the idea that everything will be going
19 along smoothly. But, if any of the parties to this particular
20 case feels that it would be appropriate to come in at 30, that
21 everybody will agree and then you'll ask me to put it at 30.

22 In other words, if anybody thinks you should come in at
23 30, that you don't have a fight over "No, we don't have to,"
24 "Yes, we do," kind of things.

25 **MS. VARTAIN:** That would be the Government's

PROCEEDINGS

1 preference, Your Honor.

THE COURT: So pick a date in 60 days approximately.

3 Do you want to talk for a minute amongst yourselves?

4 | (Conferring.)

5 **THE COURT:** You're in February if you're doing it at
6 60. I don't know if you need to look at a calendar, your own
7 personal ones; otherwise, we can just pick something middle-ish
8 February, the 12th or the 19th.

9 MS. CALDWELL: February 12th or 19th?

10 MS. WONG: I'm actually not here on the 19th.

11 MS. VARTAIN: February 12th sounds like a good day
12 then. All right.

13 THE COURT: So the matter will stand over to
14 February 12th. That will be back at the regular time, 2:15.

15 Let's see. I think I would have to be excluding time.

16 **MS. VARTAIN:** Yes, Your Honor, for effective
17 preparation due to the production of discovery.

18 THE COURT: Sounds like -- is everybody in accord on
19 that?

20 MS. CALDWELL: Yes, Your Honor.

21 MS. WONG: Yes, Your Honor.

22 **THE COURT:** All right. I will exclude time from the
23 running of the speedy trial clock to February 12th, 2020 for
24 effective preparation of counsel, which is obviously in both
25 defendants' best interest, and outweighs any other interest

PROCEEDINGS

1 they or the public otherwise might have. Thank you.

2 **MS. CALDWELL:** Thank you, Your Honor.

3 **MS. WONG:** Thank you.

4 **MS. VARTAIN:** Thank you, Your Honor.

5 (Proceedings adjourned at 9:43 a.m.)

6 ---oo---

7 **CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER**

8 I certify that the foregoing is a correct transcript
9 from the record of proceedings in the above-entitled matter.

10

11 DATE: Monday, December 30, 2019

12 
13
14

15
16 Ruth Levine Ekhaus, RDR, FCRR, CSR No. 12219
17 Official Reporter, U.S. District Court
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25